

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An assembly structured to securely retain a louver of a vertical blind assembly in an operative orientation, said assembly comprising:

- a) a support plate disposed in depending relation to a carrier assembly of the vertical blind assembly,
- b) said support plate located at an upper end of the louver in supporting relation thereto, and
- c) a retaining clip is disposed ~~adjacent~~ on opposite sides of said support plate in ~~retaining~~ sandwiching engagement with a connecting portion of the carrier assembly.

2. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said retaining clip is removably disposed relative to said support plate and the connecting portion.

3. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 2 wherein said

retaining clip is structured and configured to at least partially surround the connecting portion.

4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) An assembly as recited in claim [[6]]  
29 wherein said retaining clip comprises at least one connector disposed in interconnecting relation to both said first and second connecting portions.
8. (Currently Amended) An assembly as recited in claim [[6]]  
29 wherein said retaining clip is disposed in sandwiching engagement with the connecting portion on opposite sides of said support plate.
9. (Currently Amended) An assembly as recited in claim [[6]]  
29 wherein said retaining clip comprises an open interior having a substantially closed periphery defined by both said first and second clip portions.
10. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 9 wherein said retaining clip further comprises an interior surface disposed within said open interior and structured to assume a clamping engagement with the connecting portion.

11. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein said interior surface comprises at least two surface segments each formed on a different one of said first and second clip portions and disposed in engaging relation with substantially opposing parts of the connecting portion.
12. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein said retaining clip is dimensioned and configured to retain the connecting portion within said open interior in sandwiched relation between said two surface segments and said first and second clip portions:
13. (Currently amended) An assembly as recited in claim [[6]] 29 wherein said first and second clip portions are removably connected to one another and disposed on opposite sides of said support plate and in sandwiching relation to the connecting portion.
14. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said retaining clip comprises an open interior and an interior surface disposed therein; at least a portion of said interior surface comprising a substantially recessed configuration disposed in retaining engagement with a corresponding part of the connecting portion.

15. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said interior surface comprises a plurality of surface segments disposed in spaced relation to one another, at least one of said surface segments including at least a portion of said recessed configuration disposed and dimensioned to receive the corresponding part of the connecting portion therein.
16. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said support plate includes a stabilizing structure mounted adjacent the connecting portion and cooperatively disposed to restrict relative lateral displacement of said support plate and the connecting portion.
17. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said stabilizing structure comprises at least one stop member disposed in engagement with a part of the connecting portion supportingly engaging said support plate.
18. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said support plate comprises a mounting aperture disposed and dimensioned to receive the connecting portion there through; said stabilizing structure comprising at least two stop members each disposed adjacent a periphery of said mounting aperture in movement restricting relation to the

connecting portion.

19. (Currently amended) An assembly structured to securely retain a louver of a vertical blind assembly in an operative orientation, said assembly comprising:

- a) a support plate secured adjacent an upper end of the louver and attached in supported relation to a connecting portion of a carrier assembly of the vertical blind assembly,
- b) said support plate including a stabilizing structure mounted adjacent the connecting portion and cooperatively disposed to restrict relative lateral displacement of said support plate and the connecting portion,
- c) a one piece retaining clip including an open interior and an interior surface, said interior surface ~~at least partially~~ disposed in at least partially surrounding relation and clamping engagement with the connecting portion, and
- d) at least a portion of said interior surface having a recessed configuration disposed in retaining relation to the connecting portion.

20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently amended) An assembly as recited in claim [[21]]  
30 wherein at least one of said surface segments comprises  
a beveled area formed thereon and disposed in communication  
with said recessed configuration.
23. (Currently amended) An assembly as recited in claim [[21]]  
30 wherein said retaining clip comprises at least two clip  
portions connected together into clamping engagement with  
the connecting portion.
24. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein each  
of said surface segments is formed on a different one of  
said clip portions in substantially opposed relation to one  
another.
25. (Original) An assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein said  
clip portions are removably connected to one another.
26. (Currently amended) An assembly as recited in claim [[19]]  
30 wherein said stabilizing structure comprises at least  
one stop member disposed in movement restricting relation  
to a part of the connecting portion supportingly engaging  
said support plate.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (New) An assembly structured to securely retain a louver of a vertical blind assembly in an operative orientation, said assembly comprising:

- a) a support plate disposed in depending relation to a carrier assembly of the vertical blind assembly,
- b) said support plate located at an upper end of the louver in supporting relation thereto, and
- c) a retaining clip disposed adjacent said support plate and comprising a first clip portion and a second clip portion connected together into clamping engagement with a connecting portion of the carrier assembly.

30. (New) An assembly structured to securely retain a louver of a vertical blind assembly in an operative orientation, said assembly comprising:

- a) a support plate secured adjacent an upper end of the louver and attached in supported relation to a connecting portion of a carrier assembly of the

vertical blind assembly,

- b) said support plate including a stabilizing structure mounted adjacent the connecting portion and cooperatively disposed to restrict relative lateral displacement of said support plate and the connecting portion,
- c) a retaining clip including an open interior and an interior surface, said interior surface at least partially disposed in clamping engagement with the connecting portion,
- d) at least a portion of said interior surface having a recessed configuration disposed in retaining relation to the connecting portion, and
- e) said interior surface comprising at least two substantially opposed surface segments, said recessed configuration formed on each of said surface segments in receiving engagement with substantially opposite parts of said connecting portion.

31. (New) An assembly structured to securely retain a louver of a vertical blind assembly in an operative orientation, said

assembly comprising:

- a) a support plate secured adjacent an upper end of the louver and attached in supported relation to a connecting portion of a carrier assembly of the vertical blind assembly,
- b) said support plate including a stabilizing structure mounted adjacent the connecting portion and cooperatively disposed to restrict relative lateral displacement of said support plate and the connecting portion,
- c) a retaining clip including an open interior and an interior surface, said interior surface at least partially disposed in clamping engagement with the connecting portion,
- d) at least a portion of said interior surface having a recessed configuration disposed in retaining relation to the connecting portion, and
- e) said support plate comprising a mounting aperture disposed and dimensioned to receive the connecting portion therethrough, said stabilizing structure comprising at least two stop members

each disposed adjacent a periphery of said  
mounting aperture in movement restricting  
relation to the connecting portion.